

March 27, 2019

SANTA ROSA SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDED THE “SILVER” LEVEL BY THE FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHY SCHOOLS



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Milton, FL – The Florida Healthy District Award was created by the Florida Partnership for Healthy Schools, formerly known as the [Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership](#), to recognize school districts that have implemented policies, practices, and procedures that support health and remove barriers to learning. Districts interested in being recognized for their efforts work in teams to complete the annual Florida Healthy School District (FHSD) Self-Assessment Tool to measure how their current policies, practices, and procedures align with the highest standards of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model. Districts meeting these highest standards will have a positive impact on the health of students and staff and earn recognition at the bronze, silver and gold levels.

For the past six years, Santa Rosa has achieved the gold level, making it one of the healthiest districts in the state. This year, Santa Rosa was designated as a Healthy District by earning the “Silver” level.

“We applied for the award and are currently a “Silver” level school district. Some of the expectations changed and we weren’t quite at the “Gold” level. We will reapply next year,” explained Director of Student Services, Sherry Smith.

School district policies and administrative support are essential to sustaining programs and activities that remove barriers to learning. In Florida, the Departments of Education (DOE) and Health (DOH) have benefited from a longstanding and formal agreement supporting efforts at the state, district and school levels to build a strong CSH/WSCC infrastructure. These models employ the support of families, communities, and schools working together to improve student health and to increase learning capacity.

As part of its workplan for the Healthiest Weight Florida Initiative, the Florida Department of Health in Santa Rosa County partners with the Santa Rosa County School District.

Matthew Dobson, Public Health Services Manager for the county, states, “It’s a pleasure to work with the School District because they understand the value of healthy programs and opportunities for students and staff.”

In 2009, eight districts completed the first FHSD Self-Assessment Tool and were recognized at the bronze and silver levels. Each year moving forward, additional districts voluntarily completed the self-assessment and reported great benefit from going through the process with their district teams. In 2018, 50 out of Florida’s 67 school districts were recognized as Florida Healthy School Districts. The designation is for a two-year period and there are currently 15 gold, 23 silver and 12 bronze level districts.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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